

OCTOBER 2006

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## ARTWEAR IN MOTION TEXTILE CENTER RUNWAY SHOW



MORE than 150 original, one-of-a-kind garments from both new and veteran designers will be

featured at the Textile Center’s 10th annual runway show and boutique. Artwear in Motion will be held **Saturday, October 21, 7 p.m.**, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. A free Artwear Boutique, featuring the work of 30 artists, will be open to the public from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and 8 - 9 p.m. For tickets, call 612-436-0464. For information, visit [www.textilecentermn.org](http://www.textilecentermn.org).

## BUILDING COMMUNITY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



**Commander Kevin Herman visits with two Bloomington residents.** THE 23RD ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT Out crime, drug and violence prevention program was another success. Police Chief John Laux reported that the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Radio Group, Records Unit, Animal Control, Explorers, elected officials and other City staff visited nearly every one of the 331 registered neighborhood parties, making the event truly a team effort.

During the August event, more than 13,800 pounds of food were collected for Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), a local food shelf. “There was a solid stream of cars the day after the event and we never closed our delivery doors all day long,” said VEAP’s Christine Pulver. For more information on National Night Out, call 952-563-8808. To contact VEAP, call 952-888-9616.



## A PLACE TO HANG OUT PROJECT CREATES HOME FOR BATS

A FEW YEARS AGO, APPROXIMATELY 10 BAT HOUSES WERE CONSTRUCTED AND INSTALLED around Bloomington lakes and wetlands as part of an Eagle Scout project by Nathan Braman.

Although the focus of many myths, bats are actually beneficial. They eat huge quantities of mosquitoes and other insects during their nocturnal flights. “In most cases, bats that live in Minnesota don’t bite people or carry diseases,” Parks Maintenance Manager Paul Edwardson said. “By giving bats a good place to live, breed and eat, we are providing a natural way to get rid of potentially harmful mosquitoes and other insects that cause damage.”

Bat houses are located at Brookside, East and West Bush Lake, Girard Lake and Hyland Hills parks and Normandale, Penn and Marsh lakes. For more information, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), keywords: Living with wildlife.

**HALLOWEEN FUN:** Can you find the 15 bats hidden throughout this *Briefing* issue?

## PRESERVING THE NEIGHBORHOOD’S PERSONALITY NEW RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS APPROVED

IN AUGUST, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED an ordinance that helps retain the character of existing residential neighborhoods. New standards were created based on concerns regarding recent residential subdivisions and the compatibility of new houses with surrounding neighborhoods. The ordinance establishes new plat findings, residential height limits, single- and two-family lot widths and single-family lot tree preservation requirements.

Bloomington Senior Planner Glen Markegard said the thrust of the ordinance is to ensure that new lots and new homes fit well with existing neighborhoods.

“The City Council and residents want to make sure that new home construction is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood,” Markegard said. “The ordinance addresses residents’ concerns and helps establish a balance between an individual’s rights to develop his or her property and the needs of the community.”

The new residential standards are part of the comprehensive update to the City’s zoning ordinance that was largely written 50 years ago. Several standards and use restrictions in the current code reflect the needs and vision of building a 1950s Bloomington rather than maintaining and renewing a city in the 21st century. To improve its zoning ordinance and related City Code provisions, the City is undertaking a multi-year update focused on growth, housing, transportation, community vitality and customer service.

Other updates approved by the City Council include landscaping and screening standards, home-based business standards, a new transit-oriented, mixed-use district near Bloomington’s LRT stations and new runway-related zoning districts. The City

is currently working on new standards for commercial areas, parking standards and aircraft noise insulation requirements. For more information, call Planning at 952-563-8920 or visit

[www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Zoning ordinance update.



### RESIDENTIAL ZONING STANDARDS UPDATES

- Height limits maintain the character and scale of the City’s single-family neighborhoods. In all single-family residential zoning districts, buildings must not exceed two stories (not counting walk-out basements) and are subject to height limitations near side property lines.
- Lot width standards were set so that new lots would better reflect lot widths in the surrounding neighborhood. New lots must conform to 80 percent of the neighborhood median lot width.
- Tree preservation and replanting is important on new single-family development sites to maintain an attractive and desirable community. New guidelines protect a portion of the significant trees on any newly created single-family lot. The requirements do not apply to existing single-family lots, multi-family residential or commercial and industrial properties.

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